



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

September 11, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Sharon R. Hays
From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

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Fifth District

**POTENTIAL GRANTS FOR THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH EDUCATION ELECTRONIC
RECORD SYSTEM AND OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES TO ENHANCE THE
MEDICAL HUBS FOR CHILDREN**

On May 30, 2006 on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board instructed the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), in collaboration with the LAC+USC Violence Intervention Program and the Children's Action Network, to report back on potential grants for the Children's Health Education Electronic Record System and other funding resources to enhance the medical hubs for children.

In a memo dated June 19, 2006 (copy attached), I indicated my office would provide a response to the May 30, 2006 motion that consolidates the three motions (see attached) related to an automated health and education record system (May 30, 2006 agenda item 90-G, May 16, 2006 agenda item 68-A, and June 13, 2006 agenda item 66-A).

My staff met with representatives of the Chief Information Officer (CIO), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health Services (DHS), Education Coordinating Council (ECC), County Counsel, and Children's Action Network (CAN) to discuss the history and progress on development of an automated health/mental health/education information system, funding issues, and potential legal issues. This report, which has been shared with the aforementioned representatives, provides an overview of the discussions and progress.

Automated System

Representatives from the CIO, DCFS, DMH, DHS, ECC, County Counsel, CAN and CAO Service Integration Branch (SIB) attended demonstrations of the automated medical system currently being used by the medical hub operated by the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) at LAC+USC Medical Center. CAN has been working on concept development for a system that would expand on VIP's system to provide additional information for case/medical/mental health workers providing services to children under DCFS supervision.

The CIO has been working with DCFS, DMH and DHS to: (1) assess the current methodology for sharing health/mental health/education information among County departments providing services to DCFS supervised children, (2) identify DCFS, DHS and DMH data needs relative to health/mental health/education information for children under DCFS supervision, and (3) the feasibility of an interagency health/mental health/education data system.

Currently, health/mental health/education information is stored in multiple electronic systems and on paper. Update of systems data is slow, and medical information is often outdated.

The ECC has agreed to serve as the oversight body for the development of an electronic information system for individual education records of DCFS and Probation foster youth and has created a resource partnership to assist in its design.

As a result of the demonstration of VIP's system, the CIO's efforts with DCFS, DMH and DHS to establish their respective data needs, and the CIO's evaluation of VIP's system, the representatives from the CIO, DCFS, DMH, DHS, ECC and CAN agree that it is feasible to implement an interagency health/mental/education information system, that such a system would significantly reduce the time required to obtain accurate up-to-date health/mental health/education information, and that the automated system currently in place at VIP constitutes a good proof of concept for such a system.

While this response is meant to address the progress on development of an automated health/mental health/education information system and associated funding issues, the Board is also respectfully referred to County Counsel's discussion of the legal issues presented with creating such a system. County Counsel will provide this information to you in a memorandum to your Board under separate cover.

Funding

The California Endowment financed much of the cost of the system currently being utilized by VIP at LAC+USC Medical Center, as well as the concept development in which CAN is currently engaged. The cost to complete development of an automated system to accommodate health/mental health/education information for DCFS and Probation foster youth countywide has not yet been determined. The County's needs have not been fully documented and that work needs to be done before a reliable estimate can be provided.

The cost to implement a countywide automated system containing health/mental health/education information for DCFS and Probation foster youth has not yet been determined. When a decision is made whether to purchase a commercial-off-the-shelf system (if one can be identified for what we believe is an unusually broad set of requirements) or to develop a system to meet our County-specific needs and the cost of the system is determined, possible sources of funding would be the Information Technology Fund, grants, or net County cost.

In summary, an automated system would contribute to the County's goal of providing better outcomes for children and families and enhance the County's ability to comply with the Katie A lawsuit settlement. When the legal issues are addressed, I will submit recommendations to your Board on how to proceed.

If you should have any questions or require further information, your staff may contact Claudine Crank of my staff at (213) 974-2356.

DEJ:SRH:DL
GP:CC:lbm

c: County Counsel
Chief Information Officer
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Health Services
Director of Mental Health
Education Coordinating Council
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors